

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

12th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

NEWSLETTER

Evil and the Greater Good

The Gospel today is the well known account of JESUS calming the storm (Mark 4:35-41). We can perhaps see this as a symbol of our own lives and of the many storms we have to pass through before getting to the other side. So why does an all-powerful and all-knowing God allow these storms to happen in our lives? Why does a loving God permit evil?

This is a very difficult question to answer, but let us recall God created our first parents, Adam and Eve **perfect** and free from all suffering. God wished to create a **moral** universe in which we would have the power to say either 'yes' or 'no', and so He had to create us free. Then Adam and Eve, by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree disobeyed God and thus sin came into the world and they lost God's grace. **Suffering and death are the direct consequence of sin.** God does not *cause* evil but He *permits* it to bring about a greater good. The greater good here is that by sending His Son into the world to redeem us, He raised us to a higher state through His Incarnation. Without the Fall the head of the human race would be a mere man – Adam. By the Redemption our new Head is the Incarnate Word – Christ. A closer union with God could not be possible. We have been incorporated into Christ. Thus the Original Sin has brought about a greater good. As St Paul says, "*Where sin abounded, grace did more abound*" (Romans 5:20).

But people often ask, "How could God permit Hitler or Stalin and all the atrocities that came with them?" God did not create their evil. Man himself allowed this evil to take root. God wants us to love Him and love each other freely and not have us function as machines. Therefore to have free will there also has to be the possibility of abusing our free will. Morality implies responsibility and duty, but they can only exist if we are free. Virtue is possible because there is also vice. It is possible to be a saint only because there also exists the possibility of being a devil.

There is a famous story of the **Chinese Farmer** who relied on an old horse to till his fields. One day the horse ran away and his friends came to sympathise with him and the farmer replied, "We'll see." A week later the horse returned from the hills with three other horses. This time his friends congratulated him on his good luck. The farmer replied, "We'll see." Then, when his son was trying to tame one of the wild horses, he fell off its back and broke his leg. Everyone

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St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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office@
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Served by the Rosminians

Parish Priest

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

On attachment

Fr David Jones, OLW

Safeguarding Rep

Jane Monaghan
01509 262123

Parish Catholic Schools

St Mary's Primary

Hastings Street
Loughborough LE11 5AX
01509 212621

office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk

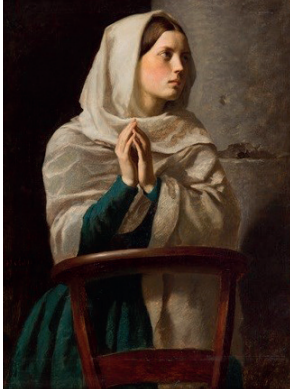
Headteacher: Miss P Jordan

De Lisle College

Thorpe Hill
Loughborough LE11 4SQ
01509 268739

enquiries@delisle.leics.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr C Maher



Please pray for those who are sick:

for those who have recently died:

may they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Martin Allaway, Katarzyna Hönl, Andrew Marples, Fr Michael Williams, Agnes Husser, Marina De Silva, Brenda Wartire

Last Rites does not mean

Last Minute! As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come.

Fr Paul

PLEASE NOTE

Due to government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are not able to publish name details of Mass intentions for the living in this online version of the newsletter.

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 22nd Vigil Mass
6.00pm Mario Mancini (RIP)

Sun 23rd Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9.00am Katarzyna Hönl (RIP)
11.15am Margot & Stanislaw Trojan & Stephen Bowmer (RIP)
4.00pm Italian Mass

Mon 24th Nativity of St John the Baptist (Solemnity)
9.15am Andrew & John Marples (RIP)

Tues 25th Feria
9.15am Andrew Marples (RIP, Anniversary)

Weds 26th Ss John & Paul, Martyrs
6.30pm Intention for the living (Latin)

Thurs 27th Feria
9.15am For the Parish

Fri 28th Feria
6.00-6.25pm *Confessions*
6.30pm Rupert de Lisle (RIP)

Sat 29th Celebration of the BVM
10.30am *Private prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
-12.30pm *with Confessions 10.30-11.30am & Benediction 12.20pm*
6.00pm **Vigil Mass:** Patrick Hollingsworth (RIP)

Sun 30th Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles (Solemnity)
9.00am Teresa Petti (RIP, Anniversary)
11.15am For the Parish
4.00pm Italian Mass

Rosary: *Mon, Tues, Thurs after 9.15am Mass*
Wed, Fri at 6.00pm
First Saturday of each month after 10.00am Mass

This week at St Mary's

Mon 24th SPUC Meeting – 7.00pm in the hall
Wed 26th UCM – 2.00pm in the hall

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thought this very bad luck, and the farmer said, "We'll see." Several weeks later the army marched into the village and conscripted every able-bodied young man they could find. But when they saw the farmer's son with a broken leg, they let him off. Now was that good luck or bad luck? The moral of the story is that it is virtually impossible for us to see the full consequences of an act or an event. What might appear to us as purely good or purely evil is only part of the picture. Only God in His Providence knows how this will all work out for the greater good in the end. *Fr Paul Gillham, IC*

Loughborough Food Bank/Your Store: The next collections will be on **Saturday 13th July** in the car park from 10.30 to 11.00am. Once again small jars of coffee and hot chocolate are requested along with shower gel, toothpaste, soap and kitchen cleaning products. Thank you for your continued support. *Jane Monaghan*

Calling Foundation Governors: A virtual information session about being a foundation governor in one of our Catholic schools is taking place on **Thursday 27th June** from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. See the poster on the notice board, or contact: Julie Sweeney at julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk *Fr Paul*

The Union of Catholic Mothers enrolment: Many congratulations to Samantha, Andrea and Liz, who have recently been enrolled in the UCM. If you're interested in finding out more about the UCM, please contact Dorothy, *UCM President*, on 07742 620268.

Next KSC Quiz: The Knights of St Columba are holding their last quiz before the summer break in Sacred Heart Parish Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 6th July 2024, with all profits from the evening going to BACA, a charity which provides help and education for refugee children. The cost remains just £7 a head, £3 for children and students, to include a cheese supper, wine and soft drinks. If you would like to come please call Will Holland on 07811 353 248. This helps with the catering.

A General Election has been called for 4 July 2024. The threat of abortion being decriminalised was averted when this election was called, but these extreme proposals are sure to return. The next Parliament will also likely see a big push to legalise assisted suicide. It is therefore vital that we elect MPs who will oppose these threats to life. To contact your candidates, and to check on their voting intentions, please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/General-Election-2024>

SPUC meeting: There will be a meeting of the SPUC group in the hall this **Monday 24th June at 7pm.**

Confirmation 2025:

I intend to invite the Bishop to come and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in the parish next year. Applicants should be in at least Year 7 by September 2024. This is advance notice that anyone wishing to be confirmed should be attending weekly Mass now. A serious commitment is required. Those not already attending weekly Mass for a considerable time by the time the application forms are available will be asked to postpone their application until such a time as they are. *Fr Paul*

March for Life UK

happens in London on Saturday 7th September. There are many attempts at the moment to further liberalise abortion in the UK and to silence those offering any alternative viewpoint whether that's 'pills by post' abortions, 'decriminalisation', buffer zones or censorship on pro-life students at universities. The dangers of these situations are being highlighted by the theme for this year's March for Life which is 'Abortion isn't Healthcare'. Join thousands at this family-friendly event. Find out more at marchforlife.co.uk



Scan the code to visit the Parish website

Prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life

- Leader:** Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.
- All:** O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.
- Leader:** Bless our families. Bless our children.
- All:** Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.
- Leader:** Mary, Queen of the Clergy!
- All:** Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.
-

Prayer to Saint Michael

Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Lourdes Pilgrimage from home

For those who aren't able to travel to Lourdes but who wish to participate in the Diocesan Pilgrimage between Monday 15th and Friday 19th July, register today at dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/lourdes or by emailing communications@dioceseofnottingham.uk. Registrants have the option to receive a physical 'Pilgrim Pack' posted to their own home, complete with a Pilgrimage Booklet, a candle lit in Lourdes, prayer intentions taken to the Grotto, a live Zoom call with Bishop Patrick, daily updates via e-mail and more!

Second Collection

Next weekend is the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul and there will be a Second Collection for Peter's Pence to support the charitable works of the Pope.

From the Saints

"Take away all evil, and much good would go with it. God's care is to bring good out of the evils that happen, not to abolish them"

(St Thomas Aquinas, 1225-1274).

www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk



Vocations month:

The Father General of the Rosminians, Fr Marco Tanghetti, has asked that we dedicate the month of July to praying for vocations to the Rosminian Order, who have ministered in Loughborough for almost 200 years. The month begins with the Feast of Blessed Antonio Rosmini on 1st July and we will have extra prayers and Holy Hours for this intention throughout the month. It would also be fitting to make this the intention for the parish daily Rosary.

Last Week's Finance

Collection:

£767 (£114 gift-aided)

Standing orders:

£704 @ 31/05

(£636 gift-aided)

Day for Life

£217

Attendance: 548

Thank you

St Mary's bank account details for online donations

Bank: Lloyds

A/c name: St Mary of Annun Lough RCP

Sort code: 30-95-21

A/c no: 00481028



Scan here for standing order, and gift aid forms